

The Wesley Messenger

August & September 2014

Wesley United Methodist Church-Union City, Indiana

Wonderful Wednesday



Wonderful Wednesday will be returning in September. We have made some exciting changes! This year on the first Wednesday of every month we will gather to eat a meal together followed by our small study groups. Small groups will meet weekly. Please plan to take part in this worthwhile ministry!



STEPS



Our youth community outreach will also start up again in September. We will be providing a simple weekly meal, games and activities, and a worship service with a short message each Wednesday. We will do the same on Thursday only without the meal. All children are welcome ages 7-18.



SUPERHEROES!

Visitation Group



Mr. Dick Wise will be heading up this new small group that will visit our shut-ins and nursing home residents. If you have a heart of visitation please contact the church office to be part of this group.

Last week you may have had the opportunity to see a lot of Superheroes running around Wesley. No you weren't on a movie set. We were having our annual Vacation Bible School, thank you to every person who helped in any way. We learned that Jesus was the ultimate superhero: strong, courageous, and giving. We had a canned food contest between the boys and the girls. Last year the girls won, but this year the boys beat the girls and together they collected over 200 non-perishable foods to help stock the Wesley Manna pantry. For every non-perishable food item they brought in their name was put into a drawing and Bibles, superhero items, and t-shirts were given away each evening. Superhero snacks were served each night, fun crafts were made, there was great music, and all had lots of fun. Thank you again to anyone who helped in to make this event such a huge success. Pouring into kids is so important; you will never know what a difference you made in their lives. God Bless!

www.ucwesley.com

VISIT OUR WEBSITE





Dear Wesley UMC,

I am excited to start a new phase in my life as pastor of Wesley UMC. I have been honored to serve the youth for the past 8 years. I will miss the excitement of serving along side such spiritually mature young men and women of God, but I am getting way too old for any more all-nighters. If I never set up another inflatable game in my life, I will be okay. I would like the youth to know just how much I have enjoyed my time as their youth pastor. We have had so many great experiences together from building houses in Mexico, to sleeping on the beach in California. Thank you Wesley for making the past 8 years some of the greatest in my life.



Wesley UMC has encountered more than a few changes in the last few years. I imagine Abraham and Sarah scratched their heads in wonder many times during their lengthy journey to the Promised Land. With only a small supply of advance notices and a lot of faith, God was coordinating for them something greater than they could possibly understand. I believe that God has greater plans for Wesley, just as He had for Abraham and Sarah. I know that it has been the faithfulness of the saints in the past that makes it possible for Wesley today to be a success. I am fully aware that the faithfulness of God's people today will ensure that our descendants from Wesley will be handed a church that is alive and well.

In James 2:23 it says, "Abraham believed God and it was credited to him as righteousness and he was called God's friend." I believe God when He said in Jeremiah 29:11, "For I know the plans I have for you, "declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future." I know that Wesley has been used by God to be a beacon of hope in the past to our community and I know that in the future we will continue to be that beacon of hope!

We will let our light shine once again this year to the community children as we launch the Steps ministry in September. The Steps will be open Wednesday and Thursday evenings from 5:30-7:30 with a free meal every Wednesday for all of the local children. Wonderful Wednesday will be coming back this year starting in September with monthly meals and weekly small groups. I want to encourage everyone to get involved with a small group this year. We will have some exciting Bible studies lined for the fall.

As the Body of Christ, I look forward to bringing hope to a world that desperately needs it. Please feel free to call me 24/7 with any thoughts or concerns. God bless you!

Pastor Geoff Grow

765-748-4345

June & July Attendance

DATE	TRADITIONAL	CONTEMPORARY	BOTH
June 1	79	93	172
June 8 (Mission Trip Week)	53	37	90
June 15 (Mission Trip Week)	73	52	125
June 22	68	61	129
June 29	72	91	163
July 6	62	86	148
July 13	64	88	152
July 20	61	80	141
July 27	76	87	163

YTD Missions Report

MISSION	GIVEN YTD	OVER/UNDER
Manna Ministry	\$3,235.00	
Honduras/Soccer Goals	\$11,959.96	-\$1,860.00
Africa University	\$220.00	
Children's Missions (Police Dog, Journey Home, etc...)	\$2,249.58	
Covenant Partners	\$300.00	
Operation Classroom	\$500.00	
Rand. Co. Pregnancy Center	\$70.00	
UMCOR	\$200.00	
Back to School Supplies	\$785.00	
Holt Mission Trip to Roatan	\$900.00	
Sierra Leone Pastors Scholarships	\$496.00	
North Side Soup Sisters	\$102.00	
UC Family House Fire	\$655.00	

YTD Giving Report

Given towards budget in June	\$17,433.05
Given towards budget in July	\$14,005.00
Given towards budget YTD	\$102,522.38
Budget YTD	\$111,492.79
	-\$8,970.41

August Servers

Traditional Greeters

Roger & Penny Hoover

Chad & Gina Spence

Traditional Ushers

Roger Hoover

Rick & Connie Gettinger

Donut Fellowship

August 3: Suerdieck Family

August 10:

August 17:

August 24:

August 31:

Altar Flowers

August 3: Jim Davis

August 10: Sowinski Family

August 17: Kenny & Nancy Ayers

August 24: Ray & Peggy Griffin

August 31: Jim Davis

September Servers

Traditional Greeters

Janice Fisher; Carol Drew;

Steve & Judy Spence

Traditional Ushers

Ryan Prinkey

Chad Spence

Donut Fellowship

September 7:

September 14:

September 21:

September 28:

Altar Flowers

September 7: Sowinski Family

September 14: Bill & Valerie Baker

September 21: John & Evelyn Ford

September 28: Leonard & Janice Fisher

August

1st-Angie Davis
3rd-Austin Green; Gene Huddleston
4th-Kenny Ayers; Vivian Mangas
5th-Heaven Addington
7th-Ralph DeVaney
8th-Joy Schultz
9th-Elizabeth Sowinski
11th-Katie Anderson; Ashley Harris
12th-Sam Armstrong
14th-Connie Claywell; Chris Knox; Scott Knox; Dennis Pratt
15th-Chad Spence
16th-Ilene Cummings
17th-Kavan Knox; Leanna Vaughn; Erick Williams
18th-Tom Kerns
19th-Gary Furby; Novah Mote; Sophia Spence; Jean Warren
20th-Amanda Jones
21st-Jenny Crist; Brad Hoggatt
22nd-Diane Prescott
23rd-Amie Wyant
24th-Melissa Adelsperger
25th-Maleia Kemp; Kennedy Phillips; Brittane Schupp
26th-Ron Holt
27th-Jason Brewer; Reagan Hoggatt; Shirley Lawrence; Brianna Williams
29th-Derek Hawkey
31st-Caleb Mangas

September

2nd-Selena DeLaTorre
3rd-Madison Holden
4th-Michael Turner
5th-Jim Crist
6th-Kurt Prescott
7th-Emily Smith
8th-Elliott Hershey; Darla Orians
9th-Todd Brockman
15th-Linda DeHaven
16th-Fantasia Schaupp; Amanda Suerdieck
18th-Elizabeth Holden; Alberta Lowe
22nd-Isaac Harris
23rd-Todd Keen
26th-Merna Brenner; Paula Hawkey; Violet Suerdieck; Vivian Suerdieck



Wesley Kids



Back to School time already???? Where did summer go? It seems like it just got here. Time is flying by so quickly. I hope you take time each and every single day to enjoy your families and those you love.



In Sunday School we are wrapping up our studies on Fruits of the Spirit. We've been learning about the qualities of Jesus and



how to become more and more like him each day. It isn't as easy as it sounds but our kids continue to impress me with their determination, generosity, caring, and most of all their love. I

honestly think I learn more from them than I ever teach them. It's a pretty good trade off if I do say so myself. The



children have decided to save their offering and give \$550 to the Journey Home. They are very passionate about the giving project they take on and they love seeing their graphs grow each and every Sunday, they love making a difference in the communities around them as well as countries they may



never have the



opportunity to visit. We are blessed to have such a wonderful group of kids at Wesley!



"Ripe for Renewal"-Bishop Michael Coyner of INUMC



I am writing from England, where I am on a Wesley Tour to learn more about John and Charles Wesley and about the beginnings of the Methodist revival movement in the Church of England -- which, of course, came to America and resulted in our United Methodist Church as well the other branches of Methodism, now with over 75 million members worldwide.

I am also learning about the haunting similarities between the 18th century Church of England and the 21st century United Methodist Church in the United States. Here are some of those commonalities:

- The Church of England in Wesley's day and the UMC in the US in our day:
- The high economic status of its members (the sociological principle of "redemption and lift") separated them from the masses and kept ordinary people from feeling welcome or hearing the Good News
- Clergy often lived away from their people, focused upon their careers, and saw ministry as a job.
- The church used outdated methods of teaching and preaching the faith.
- The church and the clergy focused upon arguments about morality rather than proclaiming God's

grace for all.

- Music and liturgy were morose and lethargic.
- Passion for the Mission of the church was replaced with second-hand support of missions and charity.
- Education of the clergy was valued over wisdom, common sense and fruitfulness in ministry.
- The church worked hand-in-hand with the government and other social constructs to maintain the status quo of the society.
- Preaching was focused upon "the head" and not "the heart."
- Laity were excluded from meaningful leadership.

This may sound like a very negative and pessimistic comparison but the point is that the church was ripe for renewal and revival in Wesley's day, and it is in our day, too.

I already see signs of such renewal and revival today:

- More and more of our congregations are feeding the poor, providing free medical clinics, ministering to the children of their community, etc.
- Our key leaders, including our active

bishops, are focused upon increasing the number of vital congregations.

- Many of our younger clergy seem more committed to the mission of the church and less focused on their careers.
- Words like "evangelism" and "renewal" are no longer seen as alien to our church.
- Many efforts are breaking forth to make worship and preaching relevant and lively.
- Ministry is using more and more of the latest media and methods of communication.
- We are trying hard to be a more outwardly-focused church.
- Laity are leading the way in many of these positive changes.

Will our United Methodist Church in the US find renewal and revival? I pray so. I have given 40 years of ministry trying to help (including many failed efforts). I continue to see both a dying old church and a new church being born.

Learning about the persistent, prayerful, patient and passionate work of the Wesleys reminds me that such revival and renewal requires many people working to achieve it. It also requires God's grace to fill us with such a Spirit.

My prayer is: May it be so, Lord, and may I do my part. Please join me in that prayer.

MISSIONS MOMENT

The August Mission of the Month is the North Side Elementary Soup Sisters. These two young ladies provide soup for the community once a month during the winter season. Even though they have said their need is not huge we would like to support their cause and contribute to the purchase of paper goods and soup ingredients. If possible, we would also like to support another mission, "God's Pit Crew." Joy FM is a supporter of this mission out of Texas. They are raising funds to build a school in Haiti for 500 children to attend tuition free. They currently have enough funds to purchase the land, but are now reaching out for assistance in raising the building funds. Visit their website, www.Godspitcrew.com to learn more about it.



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love God & love others